

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/41597 A2

PCT

- John** [GB/GB]; Meadow Vale, Dauntsey, Chippenham SN15 4JH (GB). **WILLIAMS, Andrew, Gordon** [GB/GB]; 79 Ashford Road, Swindon SN1 3NT (GB). **BOWRING, Michael** [GB/GB]; Church Cottage, Bussage Hill, Bussage, Stroud GL6 8AY (GB).

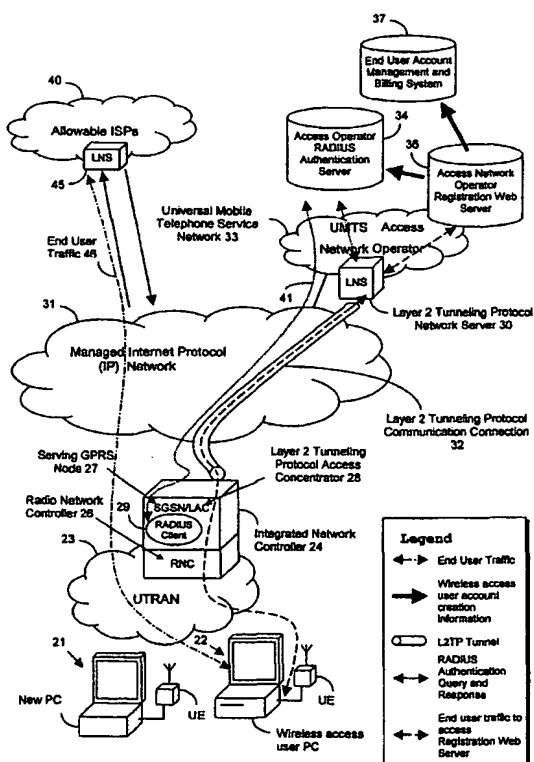
- (74) Agent: HUDSON, Peter;** InetIP, 121 Blackberry Lane, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire GU34 5DJ (GB).

- (81) Designated States (national):** AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

- (84) Designated States (regional):** ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW).

[Continued on next page]

- (57) Abstract:** Internet web technology is used to allow a wireless Internet customer to acquire a virtual subscriber identity module (VSIM) in an anonymous session connection and then transfer the VSIM to any other desired PC (personal computer).



WO 02/41597 A2



Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE,

ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

- of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

Published:

- without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

- 1 -

**USE OF INTERNET WEB TECHNOLOGY FOR
WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS**

5 RELATED APPLICATIONS

U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/626,699, filed July 27, 2000, entitled "USE OF INTERNET WEB TECHNOLOGY TO REGISTER WIRELESS ACCESS CUSTOMERS" which is a
10 continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/432,824, filed November 2, 1999, entitled, "CELLULAR WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS SYSTEM USING SPREAD SPECTRUM AND INTERNET PROTOCOL (IP)", and published in equivalent form as European patent publication EP1098539.

15

INTRODUCTION

The present invention is directed to the use of Internet
20 web technology for wireless customer Internet access and specifically to allow authenticated Internet access for more than one personal computer.

25 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Both of the above applications describe a cellular wireless Internet access system which operates in the 2 gigahertz or other frequency bands to provide high data
30 rates to fixed and portable wireless Internet devices. Such users connect to near-by base stations which in turn communicate to Integrated Network Controllers which are then connected to the Internet. Such wireless

- 2 -

implementation relates to an access network of the UMTS (Universal Mobile Telephone Service) and its subset UTRAN (Universal Terrestrial Radio Access Network) standards.

- 5 In order to gain service in a cellular wireless network of the types similar to the above, a sales representative at a retail location typically takes customer information, credit card number and credit history, etc. That information is used to create an account with a
10 cellular service provider, with the customer information stored on the service provider's Home Location Register (HLR) or other customer database. A SIM (Subscriber Identity Module) card is then associated with the account and placed within the cellular terminal (typically, a
15 mobile phone or wireless Internet device).

Both of the above techniques are cumbersome, requiring action on the part of the retailer or network service provider, and creating a time delay before a new customer
20 can use the service.

U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/626,699, allows the user to self-register to gain access to Internet services for the wireless system as above. It is, however, also
25 desired to allow authenticated access to be provided for various user access units.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

30

In accordance with a first aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of operation in a wireless access network system, as claimed in claim 1.

- 3 -

In accordance with a second aspect of the invention,
there is provided a wireless user equipment arrangement
for use with a wireless access network system, as claimed
5 in claim 12.

In accordance with a third aspect of the invention, there
is provided a computer program element, as claimed in
claim 13.

10 In accordance with a fourth aspect of the invention,
there is provided a virtual subscriber identity module
for use with wireless user equipment in a wireless access
network system, as claimed in claim 14.

15 In a preferred form of the invention, there is provided a
method of operating a cellular wireless Internet access
system as part of an Internet Network where users have
personal computers (PCs) and each user utilizes a
20 portable user equipment (UE) typically with a directly
attached antenna for communicating in a wireless manner
on a cellular network with an integrated network
controller, the UE being connected to the PC, the network
having a registration web server and an access operator
25 authentication server. The method comprises the
following steps:

A PC and associated UE are used to register with a
registration web server on the Internet Network via an
anonymous connection to the network including downloading
30 subscriber identity information from the registration web
server to the PC via the UE for storage in the PC. The
subscriber identity information includes, at least, a
unique user identification (user ID) and a permanent

- 4 -

password. Such stored information constitutes a virtual subscriber identity module (VSIM). The access operator authentication server is updated with the user ID and password. The user may then be connected to an allowable Internet service provider (ISP) using the VSIM. Another PC may be used by transferring electronically the user ID and password to the other PC, said transfer including one of the following; temporary transfer to portable magnetic storage means, a local area network (LAN) or e-mail attachments, or similar electronic transfer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an Internet system illustrating the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a schematic block diagram illustrating the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a flowchart showing the operation of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to FIG. 1, there is illustrated a wireless access user 22 with user equipment (UE) connected by typical data connection to the personal computer (PC). The personal computer has a CD drive or similar media input device with a special compact disc containing software, including a wizard (that is the instructional system procedures for registration) which is placed in

- 5 -

the CD drive. In addition, a second PC and UE 21 is illustrated (designated 'new PC'), whose function in the Internet Network system shown in FIG. 1 will be described below.

5 Both the UE and CD of system 22 are acquired and purchased at some retail location or by mail. This is described more fully in the above '699 application involving registration. PC 22 and its associated UE as
10 described in the above U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/432,824, are a part of a UMTS/UTRAN system which by many wireless techniques (a specific novel one is described in the above application) communicates in a wireless manner via a UTRAN network as indicated by the
15 symbol 23 to an Integrated Network Controller (INC) 24. Such controller may be connected by wireline or otherwise to an Internet Protocol (IP) Network 31. As discussed in the above pending application, the Integrated Network Controller 24 includes an RNC or Radio Network
20 Controller 26 which controls and allocates the radio network resources and provides reliable delivery of user traffic between a base station (described in the above pending application) and User Equipment (UE) and eventually the Integrated Network Controller (INC) 24.
25 An SGSN (Serving General Packet Radio Service Support Node) 27 provides session control and connection to the Access Operator Radius Authentication Server 34. Lastly, LAC 28 (layer 2 Tunneling Protocol Access Concentrator) provides the gateway functionality to the allowable
30 Internet Service Providers (ISP) 40 and to the registration server 36. A Layer 2 Tunneling Protocol Network Server (LNS) 30 terminates communication tunnels from the LAC through the IP network. The Access Operator

- 6 -

Radius Authentication Server 34 supports the Home
Location Register (HLR) functionality (described in the
above pending application). The Access Operator
Registration Server 36 provides the facilities for a new
5 user to register.

The Integrated Network Controller 24 also illustrates
that it incorporates a "RADIUS" client 29. RADIUS is a
system including the software that supports centralized
10 access control for Internet access, which, as discussed
above, is traditionally used where the access to the
Internet is via the public switched telephone network. A
description of RADIUS is provided by an article RFC 2138
Remote Authentication Dial-in User Service (RADIUS) by C.
15 Rigney, et al., April 1997, which is available at the
website WWW.IETF.ORG.

In all cases of communication of a user equipment 21 or
22 through the Internet Protocol Network, illustrated as
20 31, authentication is performed by the user equipment
(UE) signaling the customer's wireless access
authentication information which is passed over the air
to Integrated Network Controller 24 which queries a
RADIUS server authentication server with the user ID
25 (identification) and temporary password. The RADIUS
server used is the Access Operator's RADIUS
Authentication Server 34 which communicates with the
Integrated Network Controller via the IP network using
UDP/IP protocols with additional protocol layers for
30 security.

In the case of a new user, a 'new user' ID and temporary
password, preprogrammed in the CD software, is signaled

- 7 -

to the Access Operator RADIUS Authentication Server 34 via the INC 24. The Access Operator RADIUS Authentication Server 34 recognizes the user as a 'new user' and communicates a set of protocol filters to the
5 INC 24 that results in a PPP (Point-to-Point Protocol) session being set up between the User's PC and the Access Operator's Registration Server 36 via the Layer 2 Tunneling Protocol communication link 32 and bars the user from accessing any other service. The Access
10 Operator's Registration Server 36 is connected to the subscriber account management and billing system 37.

Thus, the foregoing constitutes the anonymous session link where a general or non-authenticated user can still
15 gain access to the wireless access operator's registration server for the purpose of new-user registration. The accompanying legend indicates the various paths. A UMTS access network operator 33 provides the special servers 34 and 36 along with the
20 billing system 37.

The flow chart of FIG. 3 describes in somewhat truncated detail the registration procedure set out in greater detail in the above co-pending '699 application. After
25 "START" in Step 1, the user purchases the user equipment UE which may or may not have a particular unique identification number (ID) and a CD with the appropriate software and wizard feature installed on it. This is connected to the PC. Next in Step 2, the user equipment
30 is installed on the PC via the wizard instructions on the CD, along with a new user ID and temporary password which were contained on the CD. These are then sent to the UE. The UE sends this authentication information over the

- 8 -

air to the RNC 26, which is passed onto the RADIUS Client 29 and the SGSN 27 which queries the RADIUS server 34 with a new user ID and temporary new user password. In effect, an anonymous connection using the temporary

5 password is made on the Internet and as described in the above co-pending application, a permanent password is generated along with a user ID. As indicated in Step 3, this is stored in the PC memory of the unit 22. Thus, the permanent password and ID which have been

10 electronically stored in the PC memory (which may be a randomly accessible memory or floppy disk or hard disk) form a virtual subscriber identity module or VSIM. At the same time (Step 6), the RADIUS server 34 is updated with the user's name and permanent password to provide

15 subsequent access to allowable ISPs 40, as illustrated in FIG. 1. Thus, as described in the above co-pending application, access has been gained to the Internet Network on a special anonymous connection. Thus, as described in Step 4, connection may now be made to

20 allowable Internet service providers (ISPs) using the VSIM user information via the Layer 2 Tunneling Network Server (LNS) 45 of the allowable ISPs 40. This route is shown in a dotted/dashed line designated End User Traffic 46.

25

With the VSIM, in accordance with the present invention, as shown in Step 6, a user may electronically transfer the subscriber identity information to a new or another PC, for example, indicated as 21 in FIG. 1. This is

30 illustrated in FIG. 2 where the original PC 22 with the VSIM subscriber identity module information indicated in dashed outline transfers the VSIM information via one of the following electronic techniques so designated: floppy

- 9 -

disk, LAN (Local Area Network), e-mail attachment or other electronic means. Thus, the new PC 21 contains the VSIM information so designated in the dashed block as VSIM' and may access the Internet Network. Optionally, 5 if as part of the VSIM or subscriber identity information, the unique identification or ID of the original associated UE with PC 22 is part of the VSIM information, then as shown by the optional line 47 the original or old UE must be transferred to the new PC 21. 10 This prevents use by more than one subscriber; in other words, it is further protection against fraud. However, this is not necessary if the user equipment ID is not a part of the required VSIM information.

15 Thus, with the foregoing the new PC 21 may now access the Internet Network. In summary the VSIM may manifest itself as the file on the hard disk of the personal computer being used for Internet Access, or as an alternative, be stored on a floppy disk or other 20 removable media. In the case of the VSIM being stored on a floppy disk the end user may take that disk to a new or different computer connected to a new or different UE and gain wireless access to the Internet. Moreover, if the VSIM information is not encrypted, it can be retrieved 25 and manually recorded by the user for transfer to another computer.

Authentication and accounting is provided for against the identifying information of their VSIM. Other typical 30 functions of a subscriber identity module (SIM) may be provided in addition to the unique ID, a customer password, and UE equipment identifier. This may include storage of an access network operator name, an Internet

- 10 -

service provider name, encryption of all of the above data, provision of all of the above data on demand to associated subscriber equipment to an access network operator, or on demand to an ISP.

5

In conclusion, with the use of the VSIM as described above in a mobile or portable wireless system, such information is transportable in this electronic format from one computer to another. Moreover, it is stored in
10 the user's PC or personal computer rather than the separate user equipment or subscriber unit (such as a cellular telephone).

- 11 -

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of operation in a wireless access network system, comprising the steps of:
 - 5 a) a user establishing an anonymous communication session communicating with the network via wireless user equipment using a predetermined temporary ID and predetermined temporary password;
 - 10 b) the user, in the anonymous communication session, registering with a registration server arrangement;
 - c) the registration server arrangement passing to the user a permanent ID and permanent password for use by the user to subsequently access the system; and
 - 15 d) the permanent ID and permanent password passed from the registration server being stored, at computer means to which the user equipment is connected, in the form of a virtual subscriber identity module which may be used for subsequent access from the computer means or transferred to another computer means for subsequent access therefrom.
 - 20
 - 25
2. The method of claim 1 wherein steps of the method are performed by the user running a predetermined software program on the computer means to which the user equipment is connected, and the method further comprises
 - 30 a step of transferring the virtual subscriber identity module to another computer means for subsequent access therefrom.

- 12 -

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the software program resides on a portable data carrier which is inserted at the computer means.

5 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the virtual subscriber identity module is transferred electronically.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the virtual subscriber identity module is transferred via one of:

10 portable data carrier;
local area network; and
e-mail.

6. The method of any preceding claim wherein the system
15 is a cellular wireless Internet access system.

7. The method of any preceding claim wherein the registration server arrangement comprises a server operating in the RADIUS standard.

20

8. The method of any preceding claim wherein the user equipment is portable, wherein registration may be effected without prior registration formalities.

25 9. The method of any preceding claim wherein the system is a UMTS system.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the system is a UTRAN system.

30

- 13 -

11. The method of any preceding claim wherein the virtual subscriber identity module comprises at least one of:

- an identifier unique to the user equipment;
- 5 a customer password;
- an access network operator identifier; and
- an Internet service provider identifier,

12. A wireless user equipment arrangement for use with a wireless access network system, the arrangement comprising:

- wireless user equipment; and
- a data carrier holding a software program for running on a computer to establish an anonymous communication session via a temporary ID and temporary password and to store a permanent ID and a permanent password in a virtual subscriber identity module, for a user to use the system by the method of any one of claims 1 to 11.

20

13. A computer program element comprising computer program means for establishing an anonymous communication session via a temporary ID and temporary password and for storing a permanent ID and a permanent password in a virtual subscriber identity module, for a user to use a wireless access network system by the method of any one of claims 1 to 11.

25

- 14 -

14. A virtual subscriber identity module for use with wireless user equipment in a wireless access network system, the virtual subscriber identity module containing at least a permanent data ID and a permanent password,
5 obtained by the method of any one of claims 1 to 11, for use with computer means to allow a user to use the system.

- 15 -

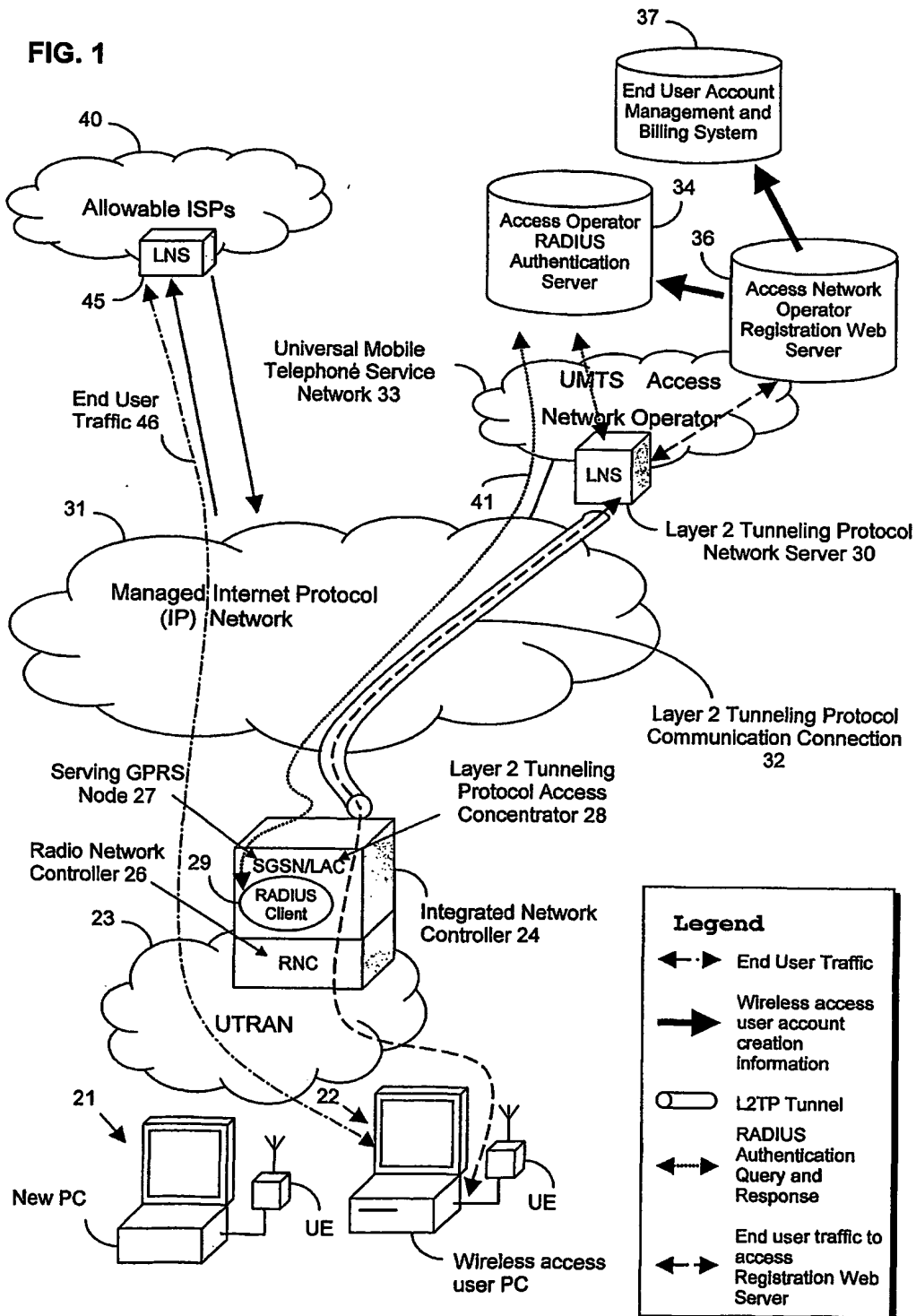
15. A method of operating a cellular wireless Internet access system as part of an Internet Network where users have personal computers (PCs) and each user utilizes a portable user equipment (UE) typically with a directly
5 attached antenna for communicating in a wireless manner on a cellular network with an integrated network controller, the UE being connected to the PC, said network having a registration web server and an access operator authentication server, the method comprising the
10 following steps:

using a said PC and associated UE to register with said registration web server on said Internet Network via an anonymous connection to said network including downloading subscriber identity information from said
15 registration web server to said PC via said UE for storage in said PC, said subscriber identity information including, at least, a unique user identification (user ID) and a permanent password, such stored information constituting a virtual subscriber identity module (VSIM);
20 updating said access operator authentication server with said user ID and password;
connecting to an allowable Internet service provider (ISP) using said VSIM; and
transferring electronically said user ID and
25 password to another PC, said transfer including one of the following; temporary transfer to portable magnetic storage means, a local area network (LAN) e-mail attachment, or similar electronic transfer.

- 16 -

16. A method as in claim 15 where said UE has a unique
ID and is included as part of said subscriber identity
information whereby the original associated UE is
connected to said another PC to enable an Internet
5 session.

FIG. 1



2/3

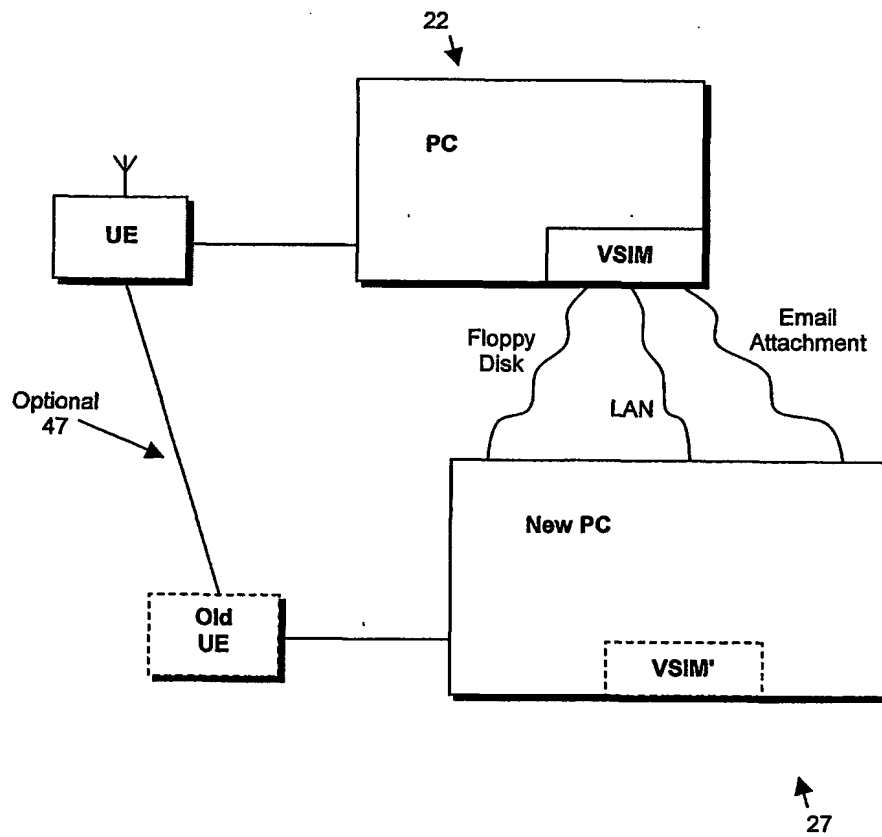


FIG. 2

3/3

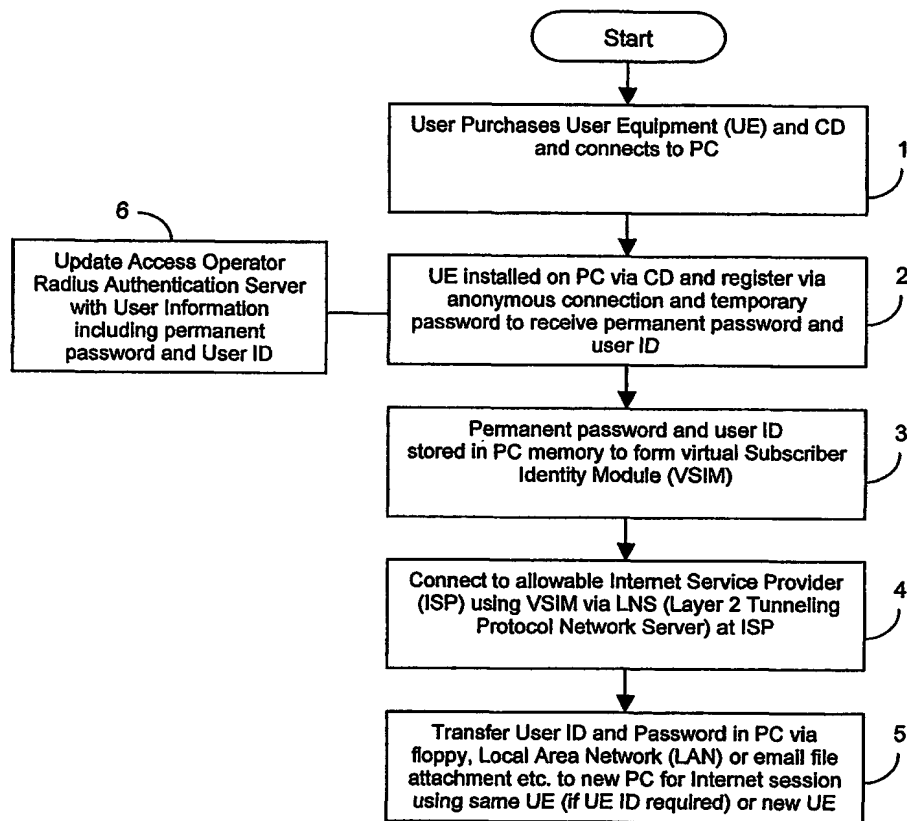


FIG. 3